



Location - From St. Maries at the junction of Idaho 3 and Forest Hwy 50 (FS 50), east along the St. Joe River for 75 miles. At the junction with Road 218, FS 50 heads north (left) and climbs 14 miles to the Idaho-Montana border.

Length - 89 miles. Allow 2.5 to 3 hours one way.

Roadway - Two-lane, paved road with numerous pull-outs and points of interest along the way.

When to see it - Throughout the year from St. Maries to Avery (47 miles). The 42 miles from Avery to the Idaho border is usually open from May through November. During the winter, this section is a snowmobile route.

Special attractions - Falls Creek waterfall; Marble Creek historic site and picnic area; Avery Ranger Station; Avery Museum; Upper Landing Picnic area; Idaho Panhandle National Forest; St. Joe Wild and Scenic River; breathtaking scenery; blue ribbon fishery; white water rafting; and the Hiawatha Rails to Trails is near by.

Camping - Private facilities are available in and around St. Maries and Avery; Shadowy St. Joe Campground and Huckleberry Campground are located along the lower, slower moving St. Joe River; Pack Saddle; Turner Tin Can and Conrad Crossings campgrounds are upstream from Avery along the Wild and Scenic St. Joe; and numerous undeveloped campsites along the river.

Services - Full services are available in St. Maries and Avery, and partial services in Calder.

Contacts - St. Maries Chamber of Commerce: 208-245-3563, www.stmarieschamber.org; St. Joe Ranger District, St. Maries Office: 208-245-2531, Avery Office: 208-245-4517, www.fs.fed.us; Bureau of Land Management: www.blm.gov.

St. Joe River Scenic Byway

Your journey begins at the town of St. Maries, the home of the Logger Memorial. You travel east along the shadowy St. Joe River so named for the towering Cottonwoods which adorn the shore lines. Among these trees are bald eagles and osprey, which use the trees as nesting sites and perches where they launch themselves to pick up dinner from the feast provided by "The Joe." As you travel the first half of the byway the river is deep and still with picturesque mountain landscapes that are captured on the watery canvas.

At St. Joe City "The Joe" becomes shallower and starts to talk to you as it flows through rapids. The water is faster here and clear, so clear that you can see the trout that call it home. "The Joe" is one of Idaho's premier blue ribbon trout fisheries where you can catch Dolly Vardens, rainbow, cutthroat and other species of trout. All along the river adventure awaits you. At Marble Creek interpretive center tour the logging display. In Avery stop in and see the trout pond where rainbow trout rise to your offerings. Visit the historic railroad depot and the refurbished sleeper/dining car.

Wildlife abounds along the river's edge, where deer, elk, moose and bear can be seen. The St. Joe River Scenic Byway is truly a recreational treasure, with something for everyone.

